

SENATE BILL 3844

By Watson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 15, Chapter 2, Part 1, to designate "Towing and Recovery Week" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting for this General Assembly to honor those industries that contribute significantly to Tennessee's economy while also promoting safety on our roads and highways; and

WHEREAS, founded in Chattanooga, the towing and recovery industry is most assuredly one such dynamic and responsible industry; and

WHEREAS, in the public safety sector, the towing and recovery industry strongly advocates the passage of "move over" laws with a single passionate voice; and

WHEREAS, the wrecker, more commonly referred to as the tow truck, was invented in 1916, when Ernest Holmes rigged a locomobile with a homemade A-frame and a hand-crank winch; and

WHEREAS, as automobiles became more and more prevalent in American society, so too did tow trucks, and in the early 20th century, the Ernest Holmes Company began manufacturing wreckers in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1970s, Century also located in Chattanooga, and in 1989, both companies were purchased by Miller Industries, the world leader in towing and recovery equipment and a large contributor to commercial and civic life in the greater Chattanooga community today; and

WHEREAS, the towing and recovery industry has changed significantly in the last ninety-plus years, but its rightful home remains in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, Chattanooga is the proud home of the world's only antique tow truck museum, the International Towing and Recovery Hall of Fame and Museum, which houses countless and ever expanding artifacts and exhibits of the industry's illustrious history; and

WHEREAS, each year towing and recovery professionals come from around the globe to honor the men and women being inducted into the Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the Hall of Fame initiated a more solemn and emotional ceremony, the unveiling of the Wall of the Fallen to honor towing professionals who died in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, scores of towing operators lose their lives each year while working; in fact, their fatality rate is comparable to those of police officers and firefighters; and

WHEREAS, the Wall of the Fallen monument, which is located outside the Museum in downtown Chattanooga, is a powerful testament to the towing and recovery industry's stalwart dedication to serving America's motoring public; and

WHEREAS, on the weekend of September 14-16, 2007, the International Towing and Recovery Hall of Fame and Museum inducted a new class of honorees and the first set of names were revealed on the Wall of the Fallen; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 15, Chapter 2, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, section:

§ 15-2-114. The week which includes the third Saturday in September shall be observed as "Towing and Recovery Week" in Tennessee, to be proclaimed as such by the governor, to honor the thousands of operators, manufacturers, suppliers, and other dedicated men and women who serve our state's motoring public with courtesy and courage while promoting safety on our roads and highways. This week shall not be a legal holiday as defined in § 15-1-101.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008, the public welfare requiring it.